

# The Passing Lane

A JOURNAL OF TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY  
from the Washington State County Road Administration Board

Special Conference Edition  
October 1994



## Its a Modern World - Voice Mail at CRAB

The CRAB has updated its phone system in order to improve staff response to software support inquiries. If you want to get direct access to CEAL, CRIS or grant programs support and get the option of leaving a voice message then use the appropriate number:

5 (206) 664-CEAL	John Donahue	CEAL/CAD support
5 (206) 664-CRIS	John McEachron	CRIS/AREV support
5 (206) 586-PLUM	Randy Hart	Grant Programs support

We hope that voice mail will help make support call backs more productive. If we're on the line with someone else or out of the office, leave your name and number, but also leave a description of the problem. This way, CRAB staff may have an opportunity to research the problem before calling you back. We're hoping that this makes things more efficient for you and for us. During the transition period, we'll continue to take support calls the old-fashioned way via the CRAB main line (206) 753-5989. But we're excited about our new capability, so we're hoping you'll use the new lines. By the way, if you are not looking for CEAL, CRIS, or grants support, but are interested in talking to John Donahue, John McEachron, or Randy Hart about the weather or the Seahawk's chances this year, then use these numbers for non-support calls, too (sorry, not you mom. I'm supposed to be working).

### Inside this issue:

- New Phone Numbers
- Back to School
- CEAL Conference Centerfold
- FREE souvenir enclosures

*The Passing Lane* is a publication of the Washington State County Road Administration Board. Unauthorized distribution is strictly forbidden unless accompanied by boisterous praise for the below mentioned staff. Please call **(206)753-5989** if you would like more information regarding this newsletter or would like a free lifetime subscription. Our electronic bulletin board may be reached at **(206)664-0946**, N81.

**Provisional Editor in Chief:**  
Eugene L. Ryser

**Technical Editors:**  
John P. Donahue, P.E.  
Dr. John McEachron

## CRAB announces new training season

We are tiring of all the road work going on out there, so hang up those shovels and come to Olympia for a technical brain transfer. Our course offerings will be similar to last year. Take a look at the enclosed training catalog and sign up for the classes that interest you. CRAB training is still FREE, the instructors keep getting better and the refreshments are,...fresh. The schedule for the rest of 1994 is as follows.

5 Introduction to CEAL . . . . .	November 15-16
5 CEAL Road Design . . . . .	November 17-18
5 CEAL Advanced Series . . . . .	December 6-9
5 Introduction to CRIS . . . . .	November 8
5 CRIS Reporting Workshop . . .	November 9-10
5 Maintenance Management . . .	December 14 & 20
5 SWIBS & Bridge Management .	December 15
5 Introduction to the County Pavement Management Planning System .	November 29-30

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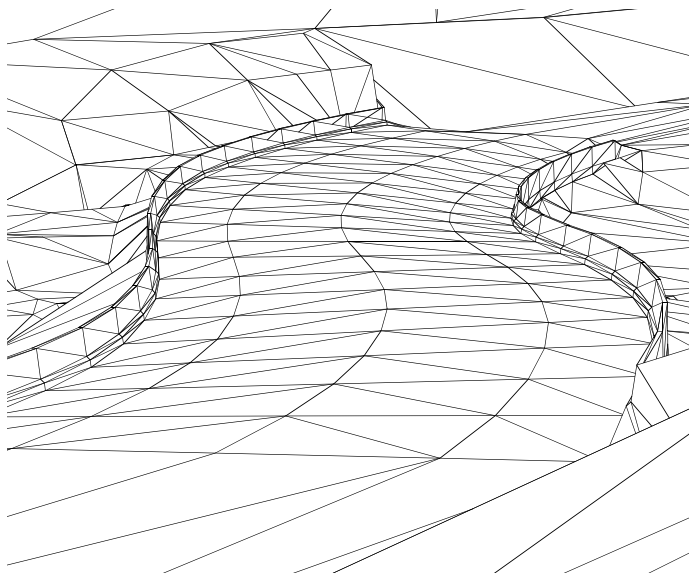
## 5th The Fifth Washington CEAL User Conference

Each year, for the past four years, the CRAB has helped organize a user conference for CEAL users willing to make the trip to Olympia to meet and chew the CEAL. This year, we're getting more than a little help from our friends at the Washington State DOT and the US Bureau of Indian Affairs. And our little conference has grown and grown, spilling out doors of our venue for the past couple of years. So we moved across town to the vast, but not overly ostentatious Tyee Hotel in historic Tumwater.

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## 5th Trends in computer-aided design

The theme for this year's CEAL conference, "Trends in Computer-aided Design", will be addressed through the effort of many speakers and workshop presenters. A keynote series will start each day. On November 1, Mark Selleck, Manager of Personal Systems Solutions for the western trading area at International Business Machines (IBM) in Seattle, WA will examine changes

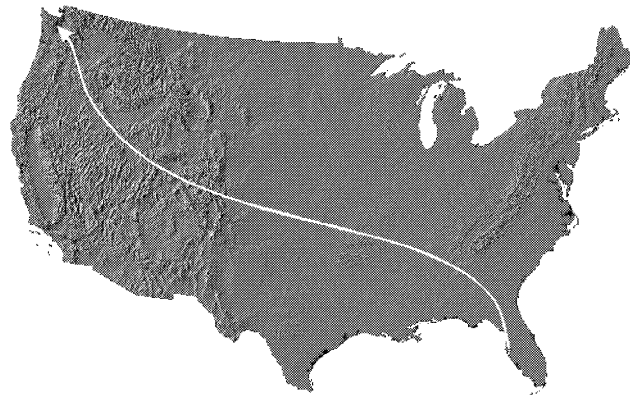


in PC/workstation hardware platforms and how operating systems like OS/2 and MS Windows are preparing to help capture the performance these platforms can deliver. Professor George Turkiyyah of the University of Washington Civil Engineering Department has been involved in teaching and research about approaches to computer-aided design since joining the faculty there three years ago. His presentation will include where that research is leading and how it may affect our workplace in the future. Finally, to lead off our second day of activities, we'll be welcoming Ron Cihon, GIS Supervisor at the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). He will talk about the challenges and benefits of integrating that department's CEAL data with their GIS program.

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## 5th CLM pulls out all the stops

Dan Dickson has been with CLM/Systems of Tampa, Florida for a little over a year, and in that time has been heavily involved in the progress of the CEAL product towards many of the features we'll be finding in the 7.0 release. Jeff Albers has been with CLM for a little longer, having worked previously with CEAL at the City of Dallas. They will be presenting the latest stop on the CEAL line, version 7.0. It will be the first CEAL capable of running in MS Windows, and CLM has wasted no time in taking advantage of Windows functionality to make CEAL a more integral part of



the PC desktop. New interface approaches have been implemented, including mouse capable spreadsheets, access to the Windows Clipboard for output, and access to full or windowed screen modes. CEAL's functionality continues to improve with this update. Look for pop-up, mouse responsive menus for file listing at the dot or in GEdit. Templates will be easier to troubleshoot now with the template viewing feature. Go In / Go Out is the new, fully customizable import/export routine for your CEAL COGO data. The field crew will be happier with customizable endarea reports to suit their needs using Report Generator. And the Auto Cad/CEAL interface utility, CECAD, has a new look and is easier to use. There's a lot of territory to cover with this latest update, so don't miss Dan and Jeff's presentation.



CEAL "Pre-Con" Social is October 31 at 6:00pm (not 7:00pm as previously reported). Too many CEAL's didn't want to be out past dark.

## 5th Workshops for the whole family

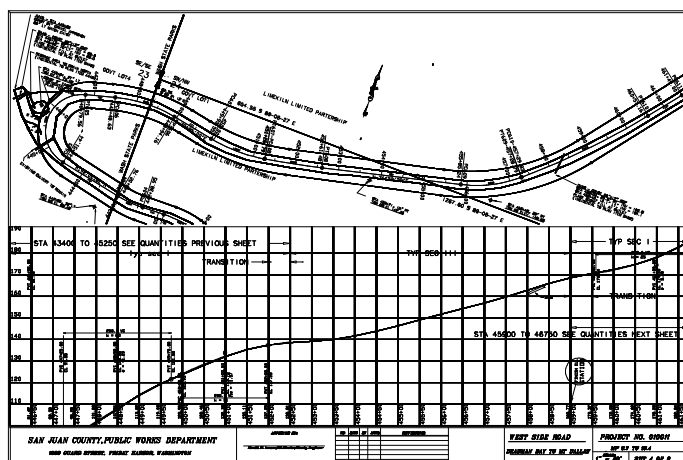
One hour workshops have always been at the heart of the CEAL conference, and they remain important this year. The WSCRAB is cooperating with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and US Bureau of Indian Affairs (USBIA) to produce this year's program. The workshop sessions this year will feature presentations and discussion groups from all



three of these organizations, plus a few from private consultants. Rob Sayler from Berger/ABAM is back this year to talk more about approaches to road design when a bridge is in the way. Samir Rustagi with Vee trix, Inc. of Seattle, has agreed to lead a presentation and discussion for new CEAL users and non-users alike. Two members of the USBIA - Phoenix office staff, Jim Bennett and Scott Schmidgall, will be discussing their experience with metric plan production (they're ahead of many of us in this process), and large project development using CECAD. The CAE team at WSDOT are preparing several workshop sessions focusing on some of their work from the past year. Look for a workshop about their design visualization program from Jim Michal, CAE Manager. Terry Ness joins up with Rob Harris of the Northwest Region for a Job files workshop, and Dave Olson is joined by Denny Eller of the Southwest Region to talk about terrain model staging. Photogrammetry for CEAL MAP models is another workshop not to miss. Paul Wocken from WSDOT MIS, and Ed Thaller and John Tull from their mapping section will be presenters. Finally, the CRAB will be hosting discussion-style workshops about practical problems. An intersection design workshop will feature county design people reviewing favorite approaches to designing at-grade intersections. The Cowlitz County team will be back this year with an interactive workshop about prompts development. Bring your questions about how to do things promptly and any procedures you'd like to see prompterized for your office.

## 5th Plan to show off your plans

This year's CEAL conference features a much larger facility with up to 6 individual workshop sessions and spacious common areas. To take advantage of all this space, for the first time we'll be featuring a **POSTER SESSION** of your work. That's right, we're looking for each office participating in this year's conference to bring a single D size (24"X36") plan sheet showing best how your group uses CEAL and CAD. At your option, bring a type written 8½"X11" sheet with information about the project and the method you used to produce it. The goal is to give each other an opportunity to see



how other organizations and offices do their work. To keep things interesting, we'll put together an eminent panel of renowned CEAL's to choose the coolest sheet from among the many entries (prize yet to be determined, although there is strong interest in a poster toaster). Conference organizers are hoping for a big showing, so don't be shy. Here's your chance to show off how you do business!

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## CEALWATCH - Enhancement requests to CLM from Washington counties

Each month the CEAL support desk at CRAB sends in ideas and reports to CLM that have been received from the counties. Here is a selection from our latest report, and the responses from CLM. The decimal reference numbers are from the CEAL manual and are included to help you look it up.

2.306 ICOGO - Shut down display of class codes (like ACAD layers).

CLM responds: Further development of ICOGO has been suspended pending development of a completely new graphical user interface that will provide many such features. Stay tuned.

2.700 GEEdit PRIii - How about a Zoom Previous option

CLM: Good suggestion. Added to enhancements list.

3.245 INDEX ALIGNment axxx - Automatic sheet layout along alignment so user doesn't have to determine station range for each sheet.

CLM: Excellent idea. Should be implemented in the near future.

4.362 CONstruct SEction fname DTM - Provide option to read external file for feeding odd stations to the command line.

CLM: CEAL 7.0 includes LD (list data) option for many commands. Where a command needs a list, substitute LD fname, where fname is a text file with extension .TXT containing the list of elements. Among those commands respecting this new option are LAY-out CHain, PROJect TO, STAtion ON, and CONstruct SEction.

4.426 CONstruct PRIii bxxx DTM - Provide option for filtering points during profile construction based on grade change criteria.

CLM: This option is now under development.

4.670 CONstruct DTM fname ENDarea - CEAL ignores srange option.

CLM: Documentation is incorrect. This command has never supported an srange. Use clipping function in GEEdit MAP to create a bounded DTM.

If you have an enhancement request or need to report a program bug, CLM is listening. They depend on our input to keep their programs responsive to your needs. Phone (206) 664-CEAL to make your report.



## Bridge Management

No room for this one. The CRIS/PONTIS interface is ready and being tested in 7 counties. Give us a call if you want to join in the fun.

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